

February 26, 2009

Sen. Calapietro, Rep. Shapiro, & Gen. Law Committee:

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak with you today regarding the raised Bill No. 6519, regarding Pawnbrokers and Precious Metals and Stones Dealers. I am asking you to support Bill No. 6519.

I was a victim of theft from my home in Farmington. Several items of jewelry were stolen from my home and sold to a Precious Metals and Stones Dealer in West Hartford. Fortunately, the Town of West Hartford has an ordinance which mandates a 10 day retention period for purchases made at these establishments. I was able to recover my jewelry, which included my diamond engagement ring, close to the 10th day.

Unfortunately, most people do not get the opportunity to recover their belongings due to the absence of Bill No. 6519. I was not away from my home (on vacation) during the time of this theft. I initially thought my 5 year old daughter misplaced my diamond ring or it was lost within my home. Many victims of theft are on vacation for at least one to two weeks at a time. Without this Bill, victims simply just don't have ample time to search the Pawn Shops and Precious Metal and Stone dealers, which is where most of these stolen items end up. Victims not only lose their belongings, but they lose the sentimental value, which is far greater.

With Connecticut General Statute 21-100 already in place, your support of this proposed amendment would simply enable victims the priceless opportunity to get back their belongings. It will allow victims the chance to discover a theft, report it to the authorities, allow the authorities reasonable time to investigate, and potentially recover their items. Without it, there is just not time for the necessary procedure to recover stolen goods.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this raised Bill No. 6519.

Sincerely,



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